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Rep. Pete Rodino wants out of NEWARK

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Remap to 'guarantee' black seat

By FRED HILLMANN

State Democratic Chairman Sen. James P. Dugan (D-Hudson) yesterday announced he will introduce a congressional redistricting plan in the State Legislature Monday, designed to elect New Jersey's first black congressman.

Dugan said the plan would create a predominantly black district, with Newark as its hub, and an adjoining suburban district with no resident incumbent, into which Democratic Rep. Peter W. Rodino Jr. of Newark would be expected to move.

Transposing 1972 congressional election results to the proposed map, Dugan said

If Rodino has an objection to the changed plan, it will probably be over the fact that he would have to physically relocate out of Newark. But state Democrats say it may be a small price to pay since Rodino has lobbied the hardest among the delegation for redistricting.

The proposed suburban Rodino district would stretch in a U-shape from Clifton and Passaic in Passaic County, through Belleville and Nutley in Essex, picking up three towns in Hudson and 10 towns up to Palisades Park in Bergen.

The new black district would take in Newark, East Orange, Glen Ridge and Harrison, and Dugan said that, with population shifts and "under-reporting" of blacks in Census figures, he believes the minority population of the proposed district would approach two-thirds of its residents.

By JEFFREY E. STOLL
Journal Staff Writer

NEWARK — If a planned realignment of New Jersey's 15 congressional districts carves out a predominantly-black district in Essex County, the complexion of the mayoralty contest here could change drastically.

Dugan's plan reportedly would move Rodino's 10th District away from the heavily black wards in Newark and give him a predominantly white district nearby. To satisfy black demands for increased political power, the plan would free for them the predominantly black portions of Rodino's current district, centered in Newark and overlapping part of East Orange.

Sen. Raymond H. Bateman (R-Somerset) lectured the majority Democratic party on its responsibilities and its need to "avoid excesses."

"This kind of political exercise can change the fortunes of a majority that abuses its power," he said.

Sen. James Wallwork (R-Essex) charged the plan was "hammered out in the back-rooms" of the Democratic State Committee and would tamper with the Democratic-GOP balance reflected in past congressional voting.

Remap clears Senate

By FRED HILLMANN

The Senate yesterday approved a controversial congressional redistricting plan for the 1976 elections, a map which would almost assure the election of New Jersey's first black congressman and a gain in seats for Democrats.

The Dugan plan is designed to elect a black congressman from a predominantly black district with Newark as its hub, by drawing a safe suburban district with no incumbent into which Democratic Rep. Peter W. Rodino Jr. of Newark would be expected to move.

Beadleston called it "gerrymandering" and accused Democrats of trying only to draw a safe seat for Rodino and get a "stranglehold" on present GOP districts.

Senate Majority Leader Matthew Feldman (D-Bergen) quoted Caesar in Latin to show that Bergen County would be ripped asunder in Dugan's plan much like Caesar divided the ancient province of Gaul.

Feldman said the map would "swallow up and divide" Bergen County as if it were "political spoils."

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